

# Interior At A Glance

The Department of the Interior is America's principal conservation agency. Interior serves as steward for approximately 436 million acres of America's public lands and for the natural and cultural resources associated with these lands. These assets are valued for their environmental resources, recreational and scenic opportunities, cultural and historical resources, vast open spaces, and the resource commodities and revenue they provide to the federal government, states, and counties. Interior also supervises mineral leasing and operations on more than 634 million acres of mineral estate that underlie both federal and other surface ownerships.

Since Congress created the Department in 1849, Interior's role has evolved from being a general housekeeper for the federal government to becoming the steward for its natural and cultural resources and the administrator of its trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to tribes. This mission is achieved through hundreds of programs and activities carried out principally by Interior's eight bureaus. Interior's bureaus have separate but often related missions, programs, and customers. Departmental Management provides leadership, management, and coordination as well as support services used by all the bureaus to accomplish their work.

## Organization

Most of the public lands under the purview of Interior management were once a part of the 1.8 billion acres of public domain lands acquired by the United States between 1781 and 1867. Land administered by Interior represents about 19 percent of America's

land surface and approximately 67 percent of all federally owned land. Each of America's 50 states, the U.S. associated Pacific insular areas, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico contain lands administered by the Department of the Interior.

Interior-administered lands include the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Park System, and the vast expanses of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or FWS) manages lands primarily to conserve and protect fish and wildlife and their habitats. The National Park Service (Park Service or NPS) manages 378 parks to conserve, preserve, protect, and interpret the Nation's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The Bureau of Land Management is guided by the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in managing its public lands. Congress has defined multiple-use management of the public lands and their various resources as that which best meets both the present and future needs of the American people. The resources and uses embraced by the multiple-use concept include energy and mineral resources; natural, scenic, scientific, and historical values; outdoor recreation; range; timber; and wildlife and fish habitat.

The Department has significant responsibilities related to energy and minerals production and use. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) manages the resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), collects mineral revenues generated from federal and Indian lands, accounts for and distributes these revenues to states, tribes, individual Indian mineral owners (allottees), and the U.S. Treasury. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is responsible for ensuring that coal mines are operated in a safe and environmentally sound manner and lands are restored to

***Mission***  
*“To protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to tribes and our commitments to island communities.”*

beneficial use following mining, and for mitigating the effects of past mining through the reclamation of abandoned mine lands. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation or BOR) is one of the largest suppliers of water in the West and the Nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) supplies the scientific information needed to make sound natural resource management decisions and to mitigate the effects of natural hazards such as volcanoes and earthquakes. The USGS is also a primary source of data on the quality and quantity of the Nation's water resources and is the federal government's principal civilian mapping agency.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) carries out the federal government's trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

## Strategic Goals

As steward of America's natural and cultural resources, the Department of Interior has five strategic goals:

- Goal 1 - Protect the Environment and Preserve Our Nation's Natural and Cultural Resources
- Goal 2 - Provide Recreation for America
- Goal 3 - Manage Natural Resources for a Healthy Environment and a Strong Economy
- Goal 4 - Provide Science for a Changing World
- Goal 5 - Meet Our Trust Responsibilities to American Indians and Our Commitments to Island Communities

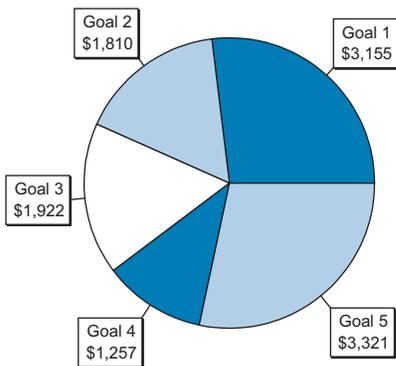
Figure 1

U.S. Department of the Interior "To protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to tribes and our commitments to island communities"			
<p><b>BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS</b> <u>Mission:</u> To enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity in balance with meeting the responsibility to protect and improve the trust resources of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administers federal Indian policy for more than 550 American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments</li> </ul>	<p><b>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</b> <u>Mission:</u> To preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages 378 parks, encompassing more than 83 million acres</li> </ul>	<p><b>FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b> <u>Mission:</u> To conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages 521 National Wildlife Refuges, encompassing approximately 93.6 million acres</li> </ul>	<p><b>BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT</b> <u>Mission:</u> To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages 264 million acres (1/8 of U.S. land mass) and 370 million additional acres of subsurface mineral estate</li> </ul>
<p><b>BUREAU OF RECLAMATION</b> <u>Mission:</u> To manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the largest suppliers of water in the 17 western states</li> </ul>	<p><b>U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY</b> <u>Mission:</u> To provide the Nation with reliable, impartial scientific information to describe and understand the earth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest U.S. natural science and mapping agency contributing to public/environmental health and safety</li> </ul>	<p><b>MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE</b> <u>Mission:</u> To manage the mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in an environmentally sound and safe manner and to timely collect, verify, and distribute mineral revenues from federal lands and Indian lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects over \$4 billion annually from the mineral leasing program</li> </ul>	<p><b>OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING</b> <u>Mission:</u> To carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in cooperation with states and tribes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulates coal mining to protect the environment</li> </ul>

Collectively, these five goals unify the diverse missions of the Department. They provide the strategic direction for managing and investing taxpayer resources to protect and preserve our natural and cultural heritage for future generations. *Figure 2* shows 1999 expenses for the Department's five strategic goals.

**Figure 2**

**Strategic Goal Expenses**  
(\$ in millions)

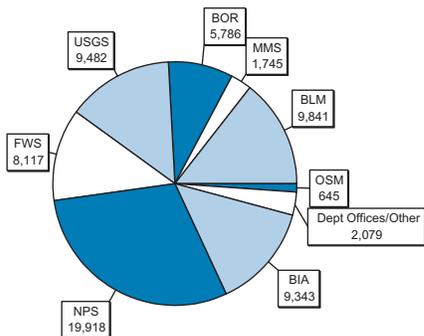


## Resources

The Department employs approximately 68,000 employees at more than 2,000 sites across the country. In 1999, Interior's full-time equivalent (FTE) usage rate was 66,956, an increase of 468 or 0.7 percent compared to 1998. *Figure 3* shows 1999 FTE usage rates by bureau.

**Figure 3**

**FTE Usage Amounts by Bureau**



Interior's operations are funded primarily by congressional appropriations of the general funds of the United States government. The Department's 1999 budget authority was \$10.5 billion, of which \$8.1 billion or approximately 77 percent was provided through current appropriations approved by Congress. The remaining 1999 budget authority was provided by permanent appropriations (i.e., budget authority that is available as the result of previously enacted legislation and which does not require any new legislation for the current year).

Interior is responsible for collecting billions of dollars in receipts, fees, and other revenues. In 1999, the Minerals Management Service collected and accounted for over \$4.4 billion from mineral activities on federal and American Indian lands. *Figure 4* shows the 1999 distribution of federal and American Indian mineral lease revenues.

**Figure 4**

**Distribution of Federal and American Indian Mineral Lease Revenues**  
(\$ in millions)

